

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 13 and 17 to 21 were pending in the application. Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 13 and 17 to 21 were rejected. By this amendment claims 1 to 5, 7 to 13, 17 to 18 and 20 to 21 are maintained and claim 19 is cancelled. New claims 27 to 29 are added. Support for claim 27 can be found in the original PCT application as published at page 27, line 20.

Support for claim 28 can be found in the original PCT application as published at page 14, line 20. Support for claim 29 can be found throughout the original PCT application as published, e.g., claim 1 and the drawings.

The amendments to the claims further define what the Applicants regard as their invention. Full support for the amendments can be found throughout the application and in particular on pages 14 and 27, as originally filed. No new matter has been added, and the entry of the amendments above and the remarks below is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-mentioned Application are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 19 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. Further, claims 9 and 19 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(5). It is submitted that these objections are rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claim 19.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC§ 102

Claims 1, 8 to 11, 13 and 19 to 21 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US 2004/0024714 (WELLS).

Particularly regarding independent claims 1 and 9, the Examiner states that, in his view, WELLS teaches, “allowing at least one further user access to the data storage space and wherein the further users access to the data storage space can be managed by the at least one user with regard to times and dates when the at least one further user can write to and/or read from the data storage space”. In support of this statement, the Examiner relies upon paragraphs [0020] and [0026] and Figures 3 and 8 of WELLS.

WELLS describes a system and method for archiving data and for recording and reporting access to, and activities performed with, said data (paragraph [0019]). An electronic safe deposit box is assigned to a user. The user may grant a further user access to

the electronic safe deposit box (paragraph [0020]). The owner of a box may grant access to particular files or folders in the electronic safe deposit box (paragraph [0026]).

Therefore, in the system of WELLS a user specifies whether or not a further user can access the electronic safe deposit box and which files or folders in the box can be accessed. There is no teaching or suggestion in WELLS of the further users access to the data storage space being managed by the owner with regard to times and dates where the at least one further user can write to and/or read from the data storage.

If the Examiner maintains the anticipation rejection of claims 1 and 9 or any of the other claims is anticipated by WELLS, then it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically identify the portions of the WELLS disclosure that allegedly anticipate the feature of the user managing the times and dates that the further users can write to and/or read from the storage space.

In view of the above, it is submitted that independent claims 1 and 9, are patentably distinguished from the WELLS disclosure.

It is submitted that claims 8, 10, 11, 13, 20 and 21 are novel over WELLS at least in view of their dependency on claims 1 or 9.

To summarise, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the present invention are allowable over the prior art, and patentably distinguished therefrom. There is nothing in the WELLS document that anticipates the feature of a user managing a further user access with regard to the times and dates when the further user can read to or write from the data storage space. The disclosure of WELLS describes a system wherein a user may grant access to an electronic storage area, but not manage the dates and times when such access may occur.

Using this feature, a user can advantageously set the dates and times that tendering users can access information in a tender box in order to ensure that the owner cannot preview the submitted tenders before the tender opening date and time and that the tendering users cannot amend their tenders after the tender opening date in a way that is not possible with the system of WELLS.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 8 to 11, 13 and 20 to 21 are distinguished over the prior art, and particularly are novel over WELLS.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC§ 103

Claims 2 to 5, 7, 12 and 17 are rejected under 25 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US20040024714 (WELLS) in view of US 6,892,300 (CARROLL).

It is respectfully submitted that said rejections are rendered moot at least in view of the dependency of said claims upon allowable independent claims 1 and 9. The Examiner is requested to withdraw these rejections.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully request the reconsideration of this Application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone should there be any remaining questions as to the patentability of the pending claims.

It is not believed that any fees are due in connection with this amendment other than those provided for in the Petition for Extension of Time. If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1980. If additional fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to said Deposit Account.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone should there be any remaining questions as to the patentability of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Petition for 3 month extension of time